

ARKANSAS

CATFISH PRODUCTION REPORT



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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This report contains the results of the July 1 Catfish Growers Survey conducted during the first half of July 2004. The catfish estimates are based on a census of all known active operators in the four major catfish production states (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi). The data are also posted on our home page at the Internet address above and more detailed national report is also available on the NASS website at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire and interview for the survey.

JULY 1 FOODSIZE CATFISH INVENTORY DOWN 3 PERCENT

ARKANSAS: Commercial catfish operations had 63.3 million **foodsize fish** on hand on July 1, 2004, down 3 percent from July 1, 2003. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory with their respective percent change are: large foodsize, 1.2 million, up 7 percent; medium foodsize, 16.4 million, down 19 percent; and small foodsize, 45.7 million, up 4 percent.

Arkansas was the second in the nation following Mississippi in total foodsize inventory on July 1, 2004, up from the third on July 1, 2003. Broodfish on hand totaled 110,000 fish, unchanged from a year earlier; total stockers at 102.4 million, were down 6 percent; and fingerlings, at 220 million, unchanged from 2003.

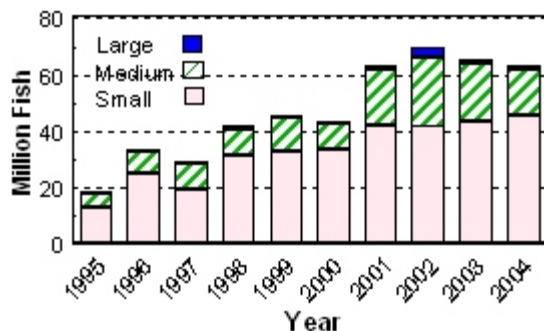
Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, July 1, 2003-2004

Type/Size	Number			Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight per Fish	
	2003	2004	% Chg.	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Lbs.</i>		<i>Lbs.</i>	
Broodfish	110	110	0	570	590	5.2	5.4
Foodsize Total	65,230	63,310	-3	81,750	80,200	-	-
Large	1,130	1,210	+ 7	3,650	4,100	3.2	3.4
Medium	20,300	16,400	-19	38,600	30,500	1.9	1.9
Small	43,800	45,700	+ 4	39,500	45,600	0.9	1.0
							per 1,000 Fish
Stockers Total	109,100	102,400	-6	22,000	22,350	-	-
Large	45,600	47,400	+ 4	16,000	16,800	351	354
Small	63,500	55,000	-13	6,000	5,550	94.5	101
Fingerlings	220,000	220,000	0	3,600	3,000	16.4	13.6

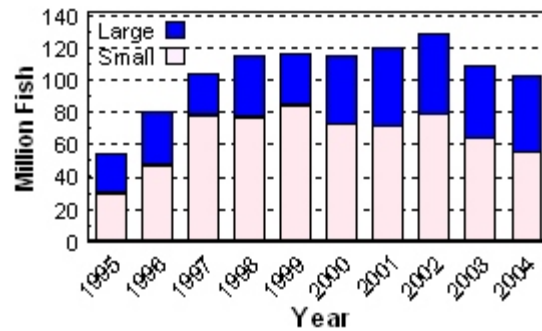
Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4-6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: Over 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: Over ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: Over 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: Over 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Fingerlings: 60 lbs. and less per 1,000 fish.

**Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size
Arkansas, July 1, 1995-2004**



**Stocker Inventory by Size
Arkansas, July 1, 1995-2004**



WATER ACRES DOWN 1 PERCENT

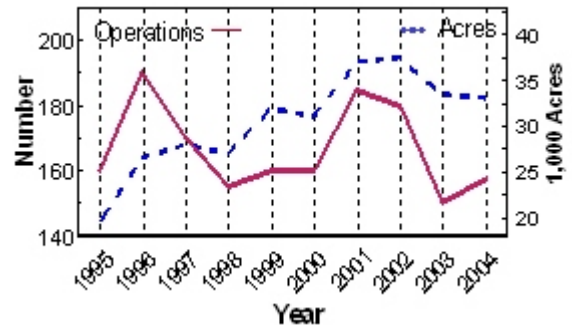
ARKANSAS: The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1 through December 31, 2004, totaled 33,000 acres, down 500 acres, or 1 percent, from a year ago. The total number of **catfish operations** on July 1, 2004 was 158, an increase of 8 from the 150 last year.

Acres used for foodsize fish totaled 28,600 acres, up 600 acres from 2003. Acres taken out of production during the January 1 through June 30, 2004 period totaled 4,800 acres, while 750 acres of the total in production were scheduled to be renovated from July 1 to December 31, 2004.

**Catfish Operations and Water Surface Acres
Four Major Production States, 2003-2004**

State	Number of Operations July 1		Water Surface Acres During July 1 - Dec. 31	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Acres</i>	
AL	220	250	26,000	25,700
AR	150	158	33,500	33,000
LA	50	48	9,400	8,400
MS	405	430	106,000	103,000
Total	825	886	174,900	170,100

**Arkansas Operations and Water Acres
July 1, 1995-2004**



Water Surface Acre Usage by Four Major Production States, 2003-2004

State	Acres Intended for Utilization During July 1-December 31										Acres Taken out of Production During Jan. 1 - Jun. 30	
	For Foodsize		For Fingerlings		For Broodfish		Currently Under or Scheduled for					
							Renovation		New Construction			
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2004	2004	2003	2004
	Acres											
AL	22,900	23,200	1,700	1,400	480	420	590	580	80	100	760	1,000
AR	28,000	28,600	4,300	3,500	600	550	500	750	*		900	4,800
LA	8,100	7,400	960	820	145	120	600	210	60		590	540
MS	84,100	82,000	16,900	15,000	2,800	2,300	2,100	2,400	100	700	2,700	6,400
Total	143,100	141,200	23,860	20,720	4,025	3,390	3,790	3,940	*	800	4,950	12,740

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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